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INSIDE THE BELTWAY

Intelligence strategy

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dave Durenberger, Minnesota Republican, this week praised CIA Director William Casey's "national intelligence strategy" as "one of the most significant events for U.S. intelligence community in the postwar era."

CIA officials were somewhat less effusive about the strategy document. CIA spokesman Kathy Pherson said: "We do plans every year. To do our job, we have to have plans."

The 40-page, top-secret report outlines the CIA's positions on the Soviet Union, international terrorism and other topics. The committee had requested it after a year of hearings on intelligence needs. To some observers, the report is less awesome than Mr. Durenberger's comment would indicate. A senior administration official, who declined to be named, said CIA Director Casey, whose differences with Mr. Durenberger have appeared in print, simply "rewrote the agency's plans in order keep Durenberger happy."

- John Elvin